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Serial No: 09/072,504

AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An orally compatible composition comprising a peroxide releasing tooth bleaching compound and from 1% to 35% by weight of potassium-containing compound, based on the total weight of the composition, wherein said potassium-containing compound is present in a safe and effective amount to ~~prevent~~ inhibit tooth hypersensitivity from occurring upon application of the tooth bleaching composition to teeth, said composition not being a dentifrice and not containing an abrasive.
2. (ORIGINAL) The orally compatible composition of claim 1, wherein said peroxide releasing compound is selected from the group consisting of carbamide peroxide, sodium perborate, zinc peroxide, calcium peroxide, and magnesium peroxide, and mixtures thereof.
3. (ORIGINAL) The orally compatible composition of claim 1, wherein said potassium-containing compound is potassium nitrate.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The orally compatible composition of claim 3, wherein said potassium nitrate is present in the amount of from 1% - 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

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5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The orally compatible composition of claim 3, wherein said potassium nitrate is present in the amount of from 1% - 8% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The orally compatible composition of claim 3, wherein said potassium nitrate is present in the amount of about 5% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

7. (ORIGINAL) The orally compatible composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is selected from the group consisting of liquids, gels, pastes, creams, ointments and foams.

8. (ORIGINAL) The orally compatible composition of claim 1, wherein said potassium-containing compound is selected from a group consisting of potassium bicarbonate, potassium biphthalate, potassium bromide, potassium chromate, potassium dichromate, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate, potassium chromium sulfate, potassium thiocyanate, potassium alum, potassium bitartrate, potassium bromate, potassium carbonate, potassium chlorate, potassium chloroglatinate, potassium hydroxide, potassium perchlorate, potassium persulfate, potassium oxalate, potassium azide, potassium fluoride, potassium hydrogen sulfate, potassium iodate, potassium chloride, potassium acetate and potassium tartrate.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An orally compatible dental bleaching gel comprising

(a) from 10 to 20% by weight carbamide peroxide, based on the total weight of the composition;

(b) from 10 to 25% by weight deionized water, based on the total weight of the composition;

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(c) from 5 to 7% by weight a potassium-containing compound, based on the total weight of the composition; and

(d) from 30 to 65% by weight glycerin, based on the total weight of the composition, said dental bleaching gel not being a dentifrice and not containing an abrasive.

10. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 9, further comprising sodium hydroxide.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The gel of claim 9, further comprising a high viscosity matrix material.

12. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 11, wherein said high viscosity matrix material is carboxypolymethylene.

13. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 10, further comprising hydroxyalkyl cellulose.

14. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 9, further comprising a sweetening agent.

15. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 9, further comprising a flavoring agent.

16. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 9, wherein said potassium-containing compound is potassium nitrate.

17. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 9, wherein said potassium-containing compound is selected from a group consisting of potassium bicarbonate, potassium biphthalate, potassium bromide, potassium chromate, potassium dichromate, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate, potassium chromium sulfate, potassium thiocyanate, potassium alum, potassium bitartrate, potassium bromate, potassium carbonate, potassium chlorate, potassium chloroglatinate,

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potassium hydroxide, potassium perchlorate, potassium persulfate, potassium oxalate, potassium azide, potassium fluoride, potassium hydrogen sulfate, potassium iodate, potassium chloride, potassium acetate and potassium tartrate.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An orally compatible dental bleaching gel comprising

(a) from 5 to 10% by weight carbamide peroxide, based on the total weight of the composition;

(b) from 5 to 10% by weight deionized water, based on the total weight of the composition;

(c) from 3 to 5% by weight a potassium-containing compound, based on the total weight of the composition; and

(d) from 30 to 40% by weight glycerin, based on the total weight of the composition; and

(e) from 30 to 35% by weight propylene glycol, based on the total weight of the composition,

said gel not being a dentifrice and not containing an abrasive.

19. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 18, further comprising a sweetening agent.

20. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 18, further comprising a flavoring agent.

21. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 18, wherein said potassium-containing compound is potassium nitrate.

22. (ORIGINAL) The gel of claim 18, wherein said potassium-containing compound is selected from a group consisting of potassium bicarbonate, potassium biphthalate, potassium bromide, potassium chromate, potassium dichromate, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate,

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potassium chromium sulfate, potassium thiocyanate, potassium alum, potassium bitartrate, potassium bromate, potassium carbonate, potassium chlorate, potassium chloroglatinate, potassium hydroxide, potassium perchlorate, potassium persulfate, potassium oxalate, potassium azide, potassium fluoride, potassium hydrogen sulfate, potassium iodate, potassium chloride, potassium acetate and potassium tartrate.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of inhibiting tooth hypersensitivity in a patient undergoing dental bleaching, comprising the step of:
applying a dental bleaching composition to the teeth comprising a peroxide releasing compound and from 1% to 35% by weight a potassium-containing compound, based on the total weight of the composition wherein said potassium-containing compound is present in a safe and effective amount to prevent tooth hypersensitivity upon application of the composition to teeth, said composition not being a dentifrice and not containing an abrasive.

24. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23, wherein said potassium-containing compound is potassium nitrate.

25. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23, wherein said potassium-containing compound is selected from a group consisting of potassium bicarbonate, potassium biphthalate, potassium bromide, potassium chromate, potassium dichromate, potassium phosphate, potassium sulfate, potassium chromium sulfate, potassium thiocyanate, potassium alum, potassium bitartrate, potassium bromate, potassium carbonate, potassium chlorate, potassium chloroglatinate, potassium hydroxide, potassium perchlorate, potassium persulfate, potassium oxalate, potassium azide, potassium fluoride, potassium hydrogen sulfate, potassium iodate, potassium chloride, potassium acetate and potassium tartrate.

26. (CANCELED)